

T H E R E H E A R S A L Of Observator, &c.

The Observator's present Treatment of the Lord Duke of Marlborough. Of Sir George Rook. And of the Lord High Admiral. The Design of Destroying the Credit of the London Gazette, and all Papers Publish'd by Authority.

From **Saturday** September the 16th, to **Saturday** September the 23th, 1704.

Country-m. **O** Thou Dog in a Doublet! My Oaken-Towel Itches to be at thee. I shall not leave a whole Bone in thy Skin, if thou Acquit not thy self to my Satisfaction.

Obs. Dear Country-man be Patient. Thou Fright'st me out of my Little Wits. Thou look'st as Fierce as an Essex-Lion. What is the matter?

Country-m. Matter! Is the Devil in thee? Thou'lt make us Odious and Detested to all the Nation. Can'st thou not Leave off Abusing the Duke of Marlborough in every one of thy Observators, since his late Glorious Victory? Have I not told of this over and over? And all cannot Cure thy Rancor.

Obs. Why! Hast not thou Rancor as well as me?

Country-m. RANCOR! I cou'd Eat him without Salt. And so wou'd we All. But I am not such an Errant Dunce, a Booby, a Bays, to Spoil all my own Ploss, and let every Body know what we mean.

In thine of last Aug. 23. Vol. 3. N. 44. Thou mad'st both him and his Dutcheſs to be Jacobites, that is, That we thought them so. Which (says thou) Lessen'd them Both in the Esteem of many Honest People. Meaning our selves. And giv'st this as an Excuse for all the vile things thou had'st said of them Both before. An Excuse Quotha! Was this an Excuse? Why, it was ten times Worse than All thou had'st spew'd out against them before. The Devil has scoop'd out thy Brains, and ——— in thy Skull.

Obs. I did it, That others might think them so. And was not that the Effectual way to Ruin them? For you know, that to be Suspected and Guilty is much the same thing with Mobb. And REPUTATION Blasted, is not so Easily Sadder'd again. And it might serve Us another Day, That it had been once said, and in Print too. Besides, do but observe my Cunning! I put the Proof upon the Jacobites, and say, That They said so. And therefore, That WE did Believe it.

Country-m. Thy Cunning! It was Perious Indeed! Should We Believe it, because the Jacobites said so? If they had Thought so, they wou'd not have Told thee. But did'st thou ever heard any of them say so? Do'st thou Converse with them?

Obs. No. Hang them! They won't Converse with Me. But I have Thee for my Evidence, I will say, That Thou hast Heard them say so.

Country-m. Then thou'lt tell a Damn'd Lye. For I never Heard one of them say so in my life, or any thing like it.

Obs. What signifies that? Can'st thou not say that thou Did'st Hear them say so? How wou'd'st thou Venture thy Neck for the Cause, when thou Gradgeſt the Labour of Speaking three Words?

Country-m. I find our Cause Cannot be serv'd, while we have one Grain of Conscience or Common Honesty left behind.

But we shou'd have a little Policy, not to let our Knavery Appear Bare-fac'd to all the World. That it is which has Enrag'd me, to see Thee and the Rest of our Godly, shew their Repentments when they shou'd have Conceal'd them. What needed that over-Ten-

derneſs of Conscience, or over running of the Spleen, That in our publick Halls (as I told thee in my Last) upon the Day of Thanks-Giving for the Victory of the Duke of Marlborough, We shou'd rather Drop the Queen's Health (which is a part of the Solemnity at such Times) then be oblig'd to Drink that of the Duke of Marlborough, which must have follow'd, and Sir George Rook too, with wishing farther Success to their Arms, &c.

Obs. They did not well. What! Do'st think we have no Conscience, to offer even a Wet-Prayer for what we Abhor, and Dread above all things in the World? Success to Them is Ruin to our Cause. And the Spirits of our Friends are to be kept up, by as Publick Notices as we can Give them, not to Run in to the Rejoicings for Church-Victories. The efore it was, That many of US had no Lights in their Windows that Night. Nor since, upon the Victory of Sir George Rook at Sea. And while their Successes were Sounded from the Tower by their Cannon, and from all the Bells in the Town, We sat Sullen and Dumpish to let the Sober Party Know, That, these were no Victories for US! And to Call them to Groaning and Grunting in the Inward, That the Church Ministry, under an Episcopal QUEEN, was like to Carry all before them.

Pursuant to this, We take all Occasions to shew Dis-respect to the Duke of Marlborough, and to Lessen the Fame of his Victories.

Country-m. How can you do that? What a Pox, you cannot Deny the Victories.

Obs. No. But we can Transfer them in great Part to Others. And you know That takes so much from Him. Didn't thou take notice what I said in my Observator of last Saturday, Sept. 16. when I told thee, That we must not hearken to the Acclamations of a Party; That when brave actions are Magnify'd to such a Degree, they are Lessen'd in the Eyes of Understanding Men. It's a strange Case, that where so many Brave Men were Engag'd, that the whole Success shou'd be Attributed to one Person. Those that know the Accounts of that Fight, otherwise than by the Publick Prints, will tell you, That Prince EUGENE had a good share of the Honour of the Victory.

Country-m. And do'st thou think this will bring thee off? Here thou mak'st a full Discovery. That we are not the Party which Magnify the Duke of Marlborough, but endeavour to Lessen him. In the next place, thou giv'st to Understand, as if We had some secret Accounts of that Fight, less to the Duke's Honour, than what is given in the Publick Accounts. And we know how far that Innuendo will go.

Obs. How far?

Country-m. Thou hast explain'd it, Master, in thy Last Observator of Sept. 20th to help those who may be so Dull as not to Apprehend it. Where thou put'st the Case thus, Am I bound to Believe all the News that is Publish'd by Authority? And Refolv'st it, in the Pretty Story thou tell'st of Sir William Turner, That we are not to Believe the King's Gazette, tho', as thou say'st simply, It is Read several times in Council before it is Printed. And thou giv'st

a Reason why we shou'd not Believe a Paper that has such Authority, and the Royal Imprimatur; Because, say'st thou, We must Consider how much of a PARTY there is in these Relations. So that WE make the Government a Party (only) against US. And then thou know'st, WE are a Party against the Government. And which will Prevail, is now the Question. Towards which there is one thing we have too long Forgot. And now Feel the smart of it. That is, in having suffer'd the *London Gazette*s and other Papers Publish'd by Authority, to Retain any Credit amongst the People. For by these, their Victories are Proclaim'd, and we have not the full Liberty to Say and Turn things as We Please. Therefore it is necessary that this Fort of the Enemies be Attack'd, it Obstructs our Lines of Communication. Therefore I Rejoice to see the Trenches open'd, and our Batteries begin to Play in Concert. The very Day before thy last Observer came out, that is, on Tuesday the 19th of this September, our Review, Num. 57. Gave the first On-Set, to prepare the Way for Thee, who was to March up with the Main Body the next Day, and Give the General Assault. The Review begins his Attack with a Long Canterbury story of a Mayor, who having Provided a Splendid entertainment for the late Thanks-Giving-Day, with two Hogsheds of Strong Beer for the Souldiers, for which he Quotes the *London Gazette*; And adds (whether True or False I know not) That the Mayor Dy'd the Day before the Thanks-Giving. Then how cou'd he Treat, or Give the Beer? Yet they might Eat and Drink tho' he were Dead. And if he provided it for them, it was his Treat still. Master, this is a very Simple Story. But upon this, he Attacks the Credit of the *London Gazette*, and Concludes thus Respectfully to a Paper of Authority, That the *LONDON GAZETTE*, and the *LONDON POST* will soon be Papers of Equal Reputation. I know his Anger at the *Gazette* was for telling of the Publick Rejoycings on the Thanks-Giving-Day. And perhaps Mr. Webb the Mayor of Canterbury, whom he makes Dead, may be yet Alive. But 'tis no Matter for that! Here's an Attack made upon the *London Gazette*! And my Master follows next Day, with Equal Force! And the day following, Thursday Sept. 21. the Master Mercury, Num. 14. brings up the Rear, in a Scornful Inveective upon the *London Gazette*, and Sir George Rook, and in Justification of the *Paris Gazette*. Thus our Cannon play'd upon the same Point three Days successively.

And the Truth on't is, Master, We shall make little Progress, if our Party will Believe any thing but what WE tell them. For want of this Method, in Time, These late Victories have Set Us Hard. We must now Bestir our selves, or we're Lost for Ever. Therefore, all Pains must be taken to Sink the Growing Reputation of this Duke of Marlborough. And that is to be done, by the way thou hast taken, First to throw out Innuendoes against the Publick News, that the Matter is not so much to his Advantage, as is Reported. And then, to Transfer as much of the Glory as we can upon Prince Eugene, tho' he be a Papish. It is not the first time that we have made good Use of Papishes, to Ballance the Church of England.

I'll tell thee, Master, I was in Company soon after the first News of the Victory at Hochstet, with one of our Noble Lords (I Mean of Ours) and when the Duke of Marlborough's Health was Begun, by a Tintoy-man in the Company, his Lordship said, The Duke had a good Hit. But it was well for him that Prince Eugene was there. And then turn'd the Health and said, Come, Here's little Eugene's Health. He's the Man. And since that, in a Large Clubb of our Considerable Whiggs in the City, I saw the Duke of Marlborough's Health Refus'd, and Prince Eugene's Drank in the stead of it. And this Que is Generally given through the Party. But I wou'd not say a word of it to thee, Master, before thy Observer about Prince Eu-

gene came out, lest it might put thee upon thy Gaurd; and to Try thy Merits, Whether thou Durst Publish it to the World. I rather thought Thou wou'dst have Deny'd it. As we now Begin to do our Calves-Head-Feast, after they have been fully Prov'd upon us.

But how shall we Get off now from Sir George Rook? Whom Thou, and the whole Set of Us have Belpauer'd in the vilest manner, these several Years together. Now we see He Dare Fight. Pox take these Church-Men. They make us Lyars by their Assertions. They have the Luck on't.

Obs. We must be the more Insolent for that. And stand to our Tackle. We know who will Believe Us. We must now take Part with the *Paris Gazette*, and Run down that of *London*. And Ridicule this Great Action at Sea, as I did before the Taking Gibraltar, because it was done by Sir George Rook. If he had Burnt and Sunk the whole French Fleet, he had been the same Sir George Rook to Us still. For we are Ir-Reconcilable! We say now that he had not Fought this time, but that he was Shew'd into it. We have a Eugene for him too. Do'st observe how I Lessen this Sea Engagement in my last, and Compare it to the Fight at LA HOGUE, where we had fourteen of the Enemies three Deck Ships Destroy'd by our Brave Tars.

Country-m. A Rope take thee for naming of that. For besides the great Superiority of our Fleet to the French at that time, not like this Last Engagement; We are told in the Life of our Glorious K William, the second Edit. Printed 1703. p. 314. That it was this same Sir George Rook, then Vice-Admiral, who did that Execution upon the French Fleet, and Burnt their Ships.

Obs. But it was Admiral Russel that Commanded in Chief.

Country-m. But suppose the Church Men shou'd make an Engine of Rook.

Obs. Never fear it. They can do no Business at all. They are Ty'd up with Rules of Conscience, and Honour, and Good Manners. They can give Just Praises to One, without Derogation to any Other. They Asst only upon the Defensive. And can these ever do any Good? Especially when they have to do with US!

Country-m. But Sir George Rook Commanded in Chief, and was Ador too, when he was sent to the Baltick with a Fleet, to Compose the Difference betwixt the two Northern Crowns, which he Perform'd with Great Conduct, and was of Mighty Importance at that Time.

And when he Took and Burnt 18 Men of War, 2 Frigats and a Fire-Ship, with 17 Gallions at Vigo. For which we had the first Solemn Thanks-Giving in this Reign. And he Receiv'd the most Honourable Thanks cou'd be given to a Subject. But he is the same Sir George Rook to Us still! Let him do what he will. As one of Us said in a Coffee-House, speaking of this last Engagement; If the French had Shot off Sir George Rook's Head, all had been Well.

Obs. I tell thee, Country man, it is not Rook, nor Marlborough neither, if we had them Both Sacrific'd, wou'd do our Business. Thou know'st what we wou'd be at. We must Fly Higher, and Wound Others through their sides. Thou hast before Receiv'd to me my Charges against the Lord High Admiral, and how I still stand to it, and will not Abate an Inch. And we must not let the Clamour lie still. Our FRIENDS Memories must be Refresh'd. Therefore in my last *Wednesday's Observer*, I fall upon the Lord High Admiral again. And giving the Reason why our Privateers take no more French Ships, I say, If an English Privateer takes a Ship, and brings her into Port, they must come up to London, and get her Condemn'd in the Admiralty Court. And after they have Paid the Perquisites of the Lord High Admiral, and the Charge of Condemnation, they had at good have staid at Home. Then I tell how The Count de Thoulouse, Lord High Admiral of France has Quined his Perquisites. And say, Why don't we do the Like?

Country-m. How do'st thou know, That the Count de Thoulouse has Quited his Perquisites?

Obs. How shou'd I know? An be Hang'd to thee! But who'll examine that? Will it not run among the Mob, and Prejudice them against our Lord High Admiral? For what other End, think'st thou I said it?

Country-m. But did not My Queen, in her Speech to the Parliament, tell of the Good Success of our Privateers, and that the Prizes were so well manag'd, as to add Considerably to the Expenses of the War.

Obs. Wilt thou take thy Queens word before Mine? Especially where her Husband is Concern'd. And Her self too most Especially. For I have often told thee, where the Cry of Male-Administrations must End. And to what End they are Raised.

Any Minister may be Accus'd of Male-Administration, in a Legal way, and before Proper Judges. But no Government is Publickly Lampoon'd and in Print, where the Design is not to Overthrow it. And when the Author is Known, and still suffer'd to Go on, tho' it may be Clemency in the Government, it may be Construd Impotency by its Enemies, and Encourage them in their Attempts upon it. This is the Use, Country-man, I have made of it. And still Resolve to Continue, with the help of Legion.